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Illusion

THE MAGAZINE FOR CROSSDRESSERS, DRAG QUEENS & ADMIRERS

Vol. 7 Issue 5

REFERENCE

EROTICA

Mannequin's Surprise
Queens of Toronto
Picked Up in Drag
ICONS, Impression
& minor miracles
Your Letters
Girls Up North

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Contacts for:
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Transvestites B & D Games Fetish Fantasies

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FROM THE EDITOR BLAH BLAH BLAH



WELL the first issue of Illusion magazine is out and on the shelves. So far the general consensus has been quite favourable, but of course there was some grumbling.

Whether it is because some people are not ready for change or because they simply do not like the new format, either way it is always interesting to hear the diverse comments. It was very refreshing and encouraging to have one of our members say to us, "Wow look at this new look. This is what I really like about you gals. You are forever trying to change and improve things as you go along." This same person was incredibly excited with the new Illusions room and the aura that it provides for the gals as well.

A pat on the back is what we all need from time to time. Thank you for your comments. To those who do not like the new direction of the magazine, or think that it is too risqué or extreme...well, dull does not sell. If a simple club chat line is what you are desiring, then perhaps one should be set up completely independent from the magazine.

I heard comments such as, "It's too horny," from people who I believe are real hypocrites. These comments were from the same gals that are constantly trying to convince

everyone around them and themselves that they are straight cross-dressers. **BESIDES ISN'T HORNY HEALTHY?** Those that yell the loudest are usually hiding something. Either way life goes on.

A situation occurred in the shop last week that was quite funny. I had two calls back to back, each a contender for a new membership in Illusions. The first fellow told me three times he was a straight cross-dresser and hoped that there would be no gay people there. The next caller introduced himself, and said he had just moved into the area and had been reading about Illusions for several years. He wanted to join, but as he put it, "There wouldn't be many heterosexuals there, would there?" I almost broke out laughing!

The main focus of the club is cross-dressing. Does it really matter what sexuality is prevalent in the room? Why are people so afraid of another person's lifestyle? Do people walk beside you at Safeway, or stand behind you in a bank lineup? Do you screen their sexuality before making a purchase or withdrawing money? Do you really think that you could or would be converted over to their lifestyle? If you think you are that vulnerable than God help you if some religious cult ever befriends you. You are truly doomed.

On a lighter note, thanks to all who helped get the Illusions room "up and running." We hope to see a lot of you gals at the upcoming socials. Even if you cannot "come out" in person, try your talents at letter writing. Many new gals from out of town would love to hear from you. Remember you are not alone, there are many others just like you who need a friend.

Darbie

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photo by Sheralyn Anderson

COVERGIRL

Cricket has been working at Detours in Calgary for the last three years and performs every Sunday evening for your enjoyment in The Caberet Show.

Likes:

Warm weather

Dislikes:

Retail sales clerk who pointedly drop dress designer names nobody has ever heard of.

**SUBMISSION
DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE:
APRIL 21**

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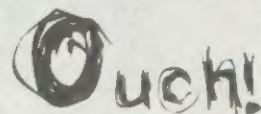
FROM THE EDITOR DEAR READER

SINCE the last magazine has come out, I/we have been asked about the information in our "ADVERTORIAL" entitled, Laser Technology Better By More Than A Hair.

Businesses use Advertorials to share information about their products to potential customers. Periodically we will present information about products and services that could be of interest to you. However, as we say in the disclaimer, we do not assume responsibility for the quality of goods or services advertised in the magazine. As always you as a consumer should work with the adage of "Caveat Emptor" or Buyer Beware! This in no way is a reflection on our last advertorial, it is just that you should not assume that we are endorsing goods or services just because they appear in the magazine.

We have received some letters on the "NEW LOOK" of this magazine and for the most part the response has been positive. Thank you for your words of encouragement. To address some of the negatives presented - I went over a few of our back issues to compare.

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The overall look of the latest issue is much more polished. There are only five pages that do not deal with gender issues. Four of those five are advertisements and the fifth page is an article on wearing latex. There is a page of letters from a bisexual crossdresser and a lingerie lover, and one half page with an erotic crossdresser-based story. Granted these last few pieces are somewhat more racy than what has generally been seen in the magazine, however I find the inference that we have become SMUTTY and as bad as those other fetish magazines pretty hard to take. Nowhere in the magazine do you find pictures of full frontal nudity or half dressed men in women's clothes. Some letters we received are racy and maybe some of them are more fantasy than reality...does not everyone indulge sometimes? Do you not remember how erotic it was your first time putting on women's clothes? Do not some of you wish that your significant other would help you dress up and enjoy you all dressed up as much as you do?

The four pages of advertisements help pay for the production of the magazine. The first ad is for qc Magazine, a gay and lesbian publication based in Calgary. We are a minority as are they, and this community is one of the few that accept us, so I hope you are not taking offense to their inclusion. Two pages are ads for books whose content may not be of interest to you, but nonetheless are of interest to some transgenerists who travel more than one avenue of alternative lifestyles. Finally, the outside back cover is an ad for B & B which ties in with the latex article. If you look back over your collection of magazines, you will see that we have used the back cover, or something similar for years now.

I believe change is necessary and healthy as one of our reader's states. I hope that you will look at the changes and perhaps gain something from the varied views presented. We live in a very diverse culture with wide spectrums of interests. We as TV's, CDers, TS's et al, have arguably a common thread running between us, but none of us have the exact interests and ideas about how life is best to be lived. Let us as a group, celebrate our diversity and be open to changes and views that are divergent from our own. Remember none of us are at the same level in our personal pursuit of life and happiness.

In Galoshes and G-Strings,

Christine

THE MAIL YOUR LETTERS

WOW! It is certainly the best word that I may use about the facelift of our magazine "Illusion". The new presentation is fine, the quality of printing and paper is excellent and the articles are always good. So, may I just say: Congratulations, you have done a marvelous job!

Micheline #436

This past January, Roxy was fortunate to go to the Philippines for a holiday. Never being dressed outside Canada, I was a bit suspect and cautious. However the event was a real "Thrilla in Manila" and I want to share it with the rest of Illusion readers.

The first weekend there, my wife's friends wanted to go to the Clark Air Base for duty free shopping; Roxy wasn't too interested in shopping, so I packed my bag and said I would stay in Angeles for a night and look around. Angeles is a small city on the outskirts of the Clark Air Force Base. Angeles was the night spot with working girls and hundred of bars and discos. Now, it supports about 2000 girls, but less bars.

Upon checking in to the Clarkton Hotel, I mentioned to the receptionist that I would like put on my dress and attend the poolside bar. She smiled and said everyone is welcome here, and she really wanted to see my dress. Next, I checked with the local in-house salon. The girls were quite interested in me, and were full of questions. It was a lot of fun, and the price was 150 pesos (\$8 CDN). By now rumours had spread throughout the halls of the Clarkton.

A tricycle ride took me to the centre point of Town. I wandered by a bar, Tahitian Queen, a girl said "Come on in Ma'am." Too much fun. Roxy enjoyed the attention she received that evening and continued to bar hop. In male clothes a couple of days later I was in a bar called Fridays. I asked the bartender Monty if I could come tomorrow with a dress on, and he laughed and said sure. I had a wonderful time the next evening and met numerous people. The manager even picked up my tab for the evening. So, if you enjoy going out in a phobia free environment, I would recommend when in Manila, go to Fridays and the Makati Ave. Restaurant. In the Philippines, crossdressing is known as "Bakla".

Roxy #447, Kelowna

I just want to tell you once again how much I enjoy Illusion. I especially liked Michelle's article on nails in the latest issue. I've started going to the Betty Page Society fetish nights here. Mostly, the leather crowd

goes to these functions but a few TV/TSers go and we congregate together. I find it hard to mix at these functions as I'm a bit shy and I'm still a little self-conscious when I'm out in public.

On Halloween, I had a guy hit on me. He had to go to work at midnight so there wasn't much chance of anything happening. Nothing excites me more as a woman than when men come on to me - especially when they are as good looking as this guy was! Keep up the great work. We really depend on you out here.

Wendy #1009

I am a 50 year old crossdresser and have been discovered by my wife last summer while we were cleaning out the garage. She found a shopping list that I made up a couple of years ago when I first discovered Illusions. I had purged and made up a list of things I would need to attend a social.

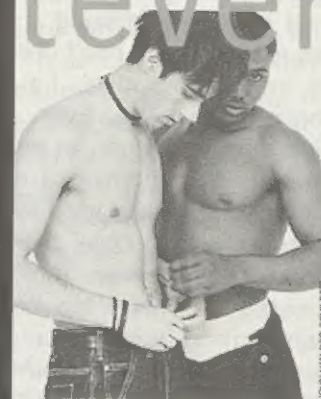
Once she showed me the list I then confessed that I never gave up my feminine desires as I had agreed to

whatever

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THE MAIL YOUR LETTERS

when we were first married. In the beginning I was allowed to wear some of her silky nightgowns, but this game quickly ended.

Over the years, I had 5 - 6 purges with each closet subsequently getting larger and more expensive. Approx. six years ago I was in Toronto and discovered the Toronto Crossdresser's Club. I spent a whole day and evening being transformed, which was a turning point in my life! I became Barbara and it was the first time I had met other crossdressers. I had the greatest time and knew then that I could never give it up.

I did continue to crossdress but not as fully as I do now. In the summer of 1993 I moved to Calgary and found Illusions. There has been no turning back since and now I have one of my largest collections ever!

Now, back to the present. My wife and I had another big fight last night over my crossdressing. She does not realize that I can't change and no matter how much I promise, I continue to do so. Even after last night's fight, as soon as my wife left for work this morning, I rushed to my closet. I then started with a long relaxing, hot bubble bath and a close shave, even most of my chest. After this I am completely transformed with all my shape padding, lingerie, clothing and makeup.

I promised her that I would take everything to the dump today, but I know I will not. My wife wants me out of the house, she wants to sell this house and go our separate ways. I still love my family and my life with them. I don't ever want to give it up. We would have to start our lives over again.

I am really unsure of what to do. As much as I want both worlds, I know I can't have both. I know I can't give up Barbara. I really need to talk to someone who has experience with this. It has come to the point where all conversations at home are one sided. I know I have really hurt the woman I love, but there is nothing there now.

PLEASE IS THERE SOMEONE TO HELP ME, I REALLY NEED A STRONG SHOULDER TO CRY ON.

Barbara #194

I have recently received the latest copy of the magazine. I found the presentation well done for the overall message that was being presented. However, I do not feel the presentation represents the message that the Illusions Social Club is wishing to express to the world.

Over the years I have explored many activities and fetishes, some of which I enjoyed. The opportunity to have the information and contact sources readily available to those seeking to know more about these various fetishes is wonderful. However, I do not believe it is in the best interest of Illusions Social Club to be riding the skirts of other fetish groups. The membership of the Illusions Club has always supported other alternate lifestyle groups, and I'm sure will continue to do so. The club should also be focusing on interaction with mainstream life.

If I had been handed this recent copy of Illusions two years ago when I came to accept that I was Transgendered, I know I would not have joined the club or made contact with so many wonderful and interesting people. The comments I got from people about the newslet-

ter/magazine was complimentary. The editions were about every day people engaged in an interesting hobby. They carried a comfortable, believable quality to them, nothing fancy, or extraordinary. I feel this new format, although professionally done, places the magazine in the same category as other erotica magazines which I feel is not what most of the club membership would like to see.

Beverley #360

I am donating these three "TV" Fiction Classic story books to you and your library. I have read them more than once and my favorite is "Hair Today Gown Tomorrow".

I have a girl in my life now that I care very much for but unfortunately when I hinted to her about Drag and CDing she reacted very negatively. So, my dressing up is diminishing down to nothing. Of course it will always be in my mind as a former way of life. I have started a new life now that I value very much with a lady I love a lot. I have really enjoyed your magazine immensely and I will try to never lose your Club's mailing address.

John (formerly Jo) #385

I understand that you are trying to reach out to a wider readership base with the changes to the magazine. I don't agree with the direction that the magazine is going so, I'm going to have to ask you to remove my picture from the registry. My name & number can remain. I have discussed the new image with my friends in the club, my wife and so far everyone I have talked to shares my feelings about the changes. We think it is becoming smutty and doesn't project the classy image it once had.

Vikki #283

...Continued on page 19

INFORMATION NEWS NEWS NEWS

MR. B.C. LEATHER CONTEST

Mr. David Klainka was selected as Mr. B.C. Leather 1997 at Q2's first annual Mr. B.C. Leather Contest held Feb. 14 - 16 at the Heritage House Hotel in Vancouver

Q2 productions, a partnership between Stephen Hosie (President of the Vancouver Leather Alliance) and Doug Gault (Club Curmudgeon of the VLA) created the event to fill the void left by the Vancouver area Leather organizations decision not to host any 'Leather' contests in the near future due to a financial drain on club resources.

According to Hosie the contest was completely sold out three days before hand, the first 'Leather' event in Vancouver to sell out before the doors opened.

Four contestants (Doug Tomkinson, Lance Lirette, Tom Osinski and David Klainka) competed. The judges for the contest were George Cameron (1997 Pantheon of Leather Int'l. Award Winner), George Whiting (Founding Father VASM), Scotty (Men in Boots Club Int'l.) and Kelly Regis (Western Canada Drummer 1994).

The Charity Auction was the first event held Friday evening in the lounge. Each contestant presented a basket of goodies for auction, with

the Border Riders Motorcycle Club throwing in another for good luck. A total of \$770.00 was raised for four different groups. David Klainka's basket sold for an astounding \$507.00.

The contestants had three major components on which they were being judged: Attitude and Personality (they each had to give a short speech), 'Fun' wear and Leather Image. Fantasies were performed by Doug Tomkinson (a flogging), a hilarious number by Steven Foulds and Kelly Regis featuring a progression in the size of ass toys culminating in the appearance and disappearance of a watermelon, while James and Berndt performed a hot wax and clothespin display.

Entertainment for the night was provided by Wanda Fuca (candidate for Empress 26) and by Velvet Steel (the founder of the Betty Page Social Club).

Mr. B.C. Leather 1998 will be Feb. 13th -15th at the Heritage House Hotel. For more information about Mr. B.C. Leather or Q2 Productions call (604) 683-1990 or (604)669-4765.

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Arsenal Pulp Press is accepting a wide spectrum of stories for two int'l anthologies of queer sex/desire-dri-

ven "short" short fiction: Quickies (for men) and Hot & Bothered (for women), to be published in the Spring of '98 (deadline and publication dates extended).

Stories must be 1000 words or less and can be funny, sad, hot, complicated, poignant, tragic, ridiculous, hilarious, lyrical, sensual, romantic, and/or steamy. Deadline April 30 1997. For full guidelines send a sase to : Quickies c/o PO Box 100, 1036 Odium Drive, Vancouver V5L 3L6 or e-mail rainbow@rainbow.descon.com or kxt@aol.com.

CHALLENGING THE MAINSTREAM

The Books Collective is pleased to announce the arrival of Neurotic Erotica by Edmonton-based Timothy J. Anderson, a first in a series of challenging alternative voices speaking from the edge presented by Slipstream Books.

Anderson, an award-winning playwright, invites readers to share dialogue about what is normal and what is neurotic in the ways humans express their sexuality. An unsettling catalogue of hidden erotic desire can be found in the pages. According to the press release, "If this book works for you, you will emerge shaken, disturbed and changed..."

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See member #193 Teri (Empress V) at the club or write P.O. Box 63133-2604 Kensington Rd. NW, Calgary T2N 4S5

ADVERTORIAL

Electrolysis - The Bare Facts

Avril Oliver, C.P.E. President,
Electrolysis Society of Alberta

Unwanted hair on the face or body can be a problem for many people. Temporary methods of hair removal are not suitable for everyone. Waxing and tweezing sometimes cause the hair to grow back stronger, or ingrown which can become infected. Shaving often makes the hairs feel coarser, or can even cause rashes in some people. If temporary methods of hair removal are not satisfactory, the hairs can be removed permanently by electrolysis.

The technique was first used by a Dr. Charles Michel in 1876 in the U.S.A. He used the galvanic current from a battery to permanently destroy ingrown eyelashes.

An electrologist removes hair permanently by passing a fine, sterilized probe into each hair follicle. A mild electrical current is discharged which destroys the papilla, (the source of nourishment to the hair) and some of the hair germ cells surrounding the follicle. Because of the growth cycle of hairs, they are not all visible at once. There are always some hair follicles in a dormant phase, and some hairs are in different stages of growth under the skin surface. Therefore a series of treatments are required. Each client is different. Some may only require a few 15 minute appointments, while others may need to schedule an hour a week for several months.

Most electrologists offer a free consultation to explain the procedure, answer the clients questions, and assess the number and length of treatments required.

There are no licensing requirements for electrologists in Canada, so it is best if you can be referred by a friend who has had a successful course of treatments.

Look for an electrologist who is a member of the Electrolysis Society of Alberta with the title Certified Professional Electrologist or C.P.E.

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ADVERTORIAL



Get Nail'd

Illusion Editorial staff

What is one thing you notice about people who are well groomed? **They have well maintained nails!**

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If you would like to spruce up your nails, we strongly recommend that you check out Get Nail'd. You need to return every two weeks or so for maintenance. You don't necessarily need to wear blue, orange or green nail polish, but if that's your choice they have an extensive rainbow of colors to choose from. The nails are so natural in color that just a clear gloss could "pass" for work. If you are a nail-biter this is an excellent way to repair the damage you may have created and start a healthy growing pattern for your own nails. Give the gals at Get Nail'd a call and pamper yourself. You're worth it. Tell them we sent you!

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EROTIC STORIES MANNEQUIN'S SURPRISE

THE large elegant house was brightly lit in the main living room. All the guests had arrived and I was, in my place on a three foot pedestal alongside the archway. I was laced into a wasp-waist corset of red leather. My legs were sleek and black in tight rubber stockings gathered to my corset. I stood in 7-inch high spiked heels. They were chained together with a shining length of silver chain. My arms were swathed in black latex gloves with the fingertips exposing my long red nails. My wrists were secured to D-rings on the corset, down by my hips. My red leather bra had specialized satin straps on the back that became a marvelously effective posture harness. With my bra pushing out my cleavage, my reflection was quite stunning.

I was enjoyed by various guests as they paused before me. I had been transformed into a creature for women's pleasure. My attention focused on one woman of obvious superiority that seemed to chuckle at my fate. Her tight black rubber panties molded her backside deliciously. She stood on black leather boots that came to her thighs with spiked high heels. She played with a large rubber dildo that was attached to her whip.

My attention was then torn from that woman as I felt my pole of love enveloped by a pair of warm, wet, red painted lips. I looked down to discover a delicate blond creature paying homage to my now growing member. The creature stepped back when the task was finished. It was a young man who had under gone a transformation and now appeared quite angelic in her Venus corset and pink rubber body casing. "I have fulfilled my Mistress' wishes, she said, curtsied and minced off across the room.

I followed her retreat with my eyes when I remembered the woman. I saw her again, across the room, her black leather corset was very tight, with firm smooth leather molded half cups at its top. Her large full tits were held up high and exposed. She had a very intense mask on with her hair swept under her leather hat. She noticed my stare and effortlessly came towards me. The hostess came over and asked this "Woman" if she liked what she saw. She nodded and my gracious hostess released my chains. A leash was handed over to my new owner and my mind whirled. As the woman led me out to the car and secured me in the back seat; I was crazy with thought. Where would she take me...and for how long? There was no way I could tell behind my cape and hood where I was. How could I escape this spiderweb of a new reality? I would potentially be molded and shaped into a bizarre feminine creature for this woman who was clearly superior.

I was now in a house standing before her. She was beginning to slowly remove my mask, and it was then that I knew that I would serve, obey and belong to her for the rest of my life. It was my wife!!!!

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TRANSVESTISM

WITHIN A PARTNERSHIP OF MARRIAGE & FAMILIES.

BY YVONNE SINCLAIR

Continued from Vol. 7 Issue 4

SECOND (REVISED) EDITION.

Q³⁰ If we join any society or organization such as yours, might we be drawn into sexual partnerships with other couples?

I have read that this can happen. The Transvestite/Transsexual Support Group has the backing of the media dealing with transvestite or transsexual questions, and we would not have that backing unless they had thoroughly investigated the Group and established that we are reputable. Referral through the 'Agony Aunt' columns, as well as broadcasting media, the Samaritans, marriage guidance clinics, etc., would never be made to any group or society which was in any way 'dubious'. The social

evenings held by the Group are designed to aid both partners to gain better understanding of the compulsion, and to form friendships with other couples and individuals. Often these friendships will overlap into 'everyday' life, just as will friendships formed by any other group of people sharing any special interest, anywhere.

There are 'contact' magazines etc., which publish advertisements for various sexual interest groups, and some of these may include transvestism as part of the sexual pleasures. However, we have a policy of welcoming any person, regardless of their sexual inclinations, and find that there is a compatibility between both groups - heterosexual and homosexual; but their sexual inclinations play no part within the context of the Group meetings.

he is trying to create his sister's company. Children know more than we might credit them for, and if you talk with your son in a reassuring way, you can learn the extent of his need to dress. We may be afraid of the answer and not want to hear it, but we may be wrong in the assumptions we have made.

Punishment will not stop him. To his way of thinking there must be a reason for punishment and, in innocence, he does not feel he has done anything wrong. Punishment will suggest to him that it was wrong, and he might seek to answer his puzzlement by doing it again. Children are born innocent; we impose upon them our judgement of what is right and wrong. A gentle approach may save many fears and doubts in later years.

Q³¹ I recently discovered my young son dressed in his sister's clothes. Why did he do this?

Transvestism has no social barriers to friendships across the classes; from dukes to dustmen, we all have the same 'badge of office' - the skirt. Many other societies or clubs, which create artificial barriers, could learn a lesson from transvestism; in which all men are equal. (Depending, of course, on the height of their high heels.

All children love dressing up; perhaps your son was just doing it as a game. However, if you take the view that it was his way of being a girl, and he does it quite often, then you can assume that he has started towards transvestism, and that dressing is a compulsion. It can simply be an expression of loneli-

ness, or a feeling of rejection. Children have very fertile imaginations; to him it might be a way of creating a friend. It may be that he would just like to look pretty. We condition children to form patterns of behaviour which might not seem right to them. Although girls are accepted in skirts or trousers, it is likely that your son sees sexual identity as what you wear. Therefore, if he puts on a skirt he is a girl. Although we generally expect boys to play football and girls to play with dolls, we have girls who play football and boys who play with 'action men'. They see dolls as real people and take soft toys to bed to comfort them. Perhaps if a boy dresses in his sister's clothes

No matter what his reason was at the time, you must decide what you are going to do about the future. If you are not satisfied that you have reassured both him and yourself, then discuss it with your G.P. He will offer assistance and any psychiatric help he feels necessary. You should not feel that your son is mentally ill, but he does need understanding in his identity conflict. True understanding may be the solution. You must not draw the that he will want to be a girl in the future, it can be a whim.

Tomorrow, he may be an engine driver or a spaceman. He may have done it to gain extra attention. You should encourage him to become interested in other things and guide him out of this stage in his life.

...continued on page 19

Ms. Gloria Whole - The Girl With Something Extra

When A Man Tries To Pick You Up In Drag

WE still live in a very closeted society and many men who will be drawn to you really want a part of the freedom of sexuality that you're expressing. Chances are he already knows what he's in for when he hits on you. Always tell him that you are a girl with something extra and then elaborate just how large that something extra is. Negotiate what he and you both expect to get out of this experience.

He is very likely to be in complete denial that you're really a man in a dress. Let him fantasize and pretend all he wants. He is probably freaked out about his bi, or homosexual tendencies. As long as he convinces himself that you're really a woman, he can walk away guilt free. Still you must always take precaution by carrying rubbers and nonoxynol 9 water based lubricant. It may surprise you just how turned on he is by your something extra. Don't be shocked if he finds that you're too incredibly edible and actually wants to sit on this idea. Your he-man may actually be quite submissive in the sack.

Many such men who I call trannie chasers actually want to be a transvestite themselves. You're just doing the job for them and that's why they admire you so much. Don't be surprised if your dream date actually wants to wear your bras, pantyhose and dresses. How you handle it is all up to you and how rigid you feel about gender role playing. Many queens are just looking for one good he-man. But trust Miss Gloria, there's always a hitch with a man seeking a switch.

•Always insist on using rubbers and practicing safer sex

•Keep your lipstick freshly applied, especially if he keeps kissing it off. Just reapply a little base, lip liner and powder, then fill in your lips with lipstick.

•Be aware if your man is a clod and don't let him knock your wig out of place with overly passionate hugs. Move in accordance to how graceful, or ungraceful he is.

•Flatter him. All men are saps for a little ego boosting. Tell him how masculine, strong and sexy he is. This will get him very excited and make him perform more enthusiastically. If he gets uncomfortable being pressured into feeling too he-mannish, then ask him if he ever considered wearing lingerie.

•Don't expect a real telephone number after your date. Chances are he's doing this on the sly and will need a lot of time to digest and rationalize this experience. Usually he'll go back into denial afterwards, or just enjoy the moment for what it is. He may surprise you and be for real, or he may give you his harmless beeper number.

•Don't be afraid to let him spend money on you. In fact you may as well encourage it. Most men in this culture are conditioned to think that they have to pay for sex in one way or another. Either by wining and dining a lady, or being a successful provider, or bread winner. Face it: if he wasn't blowing his wallet on you, he'd be blowing it on some other Trannie, Drag Queen, or cheap floozy. Take what he offers and be gracious.

•If you become his convenient woman, make sure you're getting something in exchange for your reliability. Have him bring you presents and give him handy chores to do. He's certainly getting his mileage out of you, and one good turn deserves another. There is no such thing as a free lunch. Never let him see you at times that are inconvenient for you. Never let him turn your home into a flophouse, only when he's in the mood to get laid.

•Because we live in a society that's overrun by homophobia, chances are he won't want to go into many public places where he may run into someone he knows. Then again, this depends on just how passable you look as a real woman. But remember, passable means nothing, it's all about how passable you are in your own heart. You need to feel lots of self love, empowerment and confidence. You're a special kind of girl, be proud Miss Thing!

HEELS

My heart pounds at the sight of a man in stilettos. His centre of gravity disturbed. Calves in knots and ropes his ass juts out, at an angle. Cock soft in comparison disoriented, unsure

he whimpers at my order: "Keep them on, don't tear the sheets" No whip today, just gag & thongs. No sound. He shoots his load and hopes I didn't notice how he didn't wait. I pull his head up my crotch his hair dry and rough. He freezes, knows I can and will hurt him. "You didn't wait" A sob leaks from the gag, I come. "You didn't wait!" Adrenalin like poppers to my heart I hit him again, again. He thrashes to undo the straps. Anger, frustration, each sob a crucible for my ebbs and flows crashing as the sheets tear beating his shoulders. "What did I say, what did I say?" My nails scrape pinkwhite tracks on his brown skin. He stops struggling. A long drawn moan drags through him. he feigns submission, feints and turns the tables breaking my last dam and he, stiletto in his hand, desperate and mute shoving it inside me.

excerpt from:
Neurotic Erotica
by Timothy J. Anderson
Slipstream Books
214-21 10405 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S2

ICONS

impressions, & minor miracles

WE hear from Princess Rachel, "If you have been a supporter of the club and have never screwed up the courage to attend one of the socials (especially a big one), then you have absolutely no conception of what you are missing."

As an out of province member, it was a special mission to finally make it out to where the big girls play - with the stars so to speak. Those wonderful girls that you read about from time to time who are greatly admired and who may produce a case of slack-jawed awe in us from time to time. I always wondered what it would be like and what they would be like.

I got answers to many questions at the "Illusions" Christmas party. It was far better than I had anticipated. The girls that I managed to meet (and there were plenty) were everything I could hope for and more. And as for those that I didn't meet...shame on you! We'll be chatting next time. There definitely will be a next time, because once the barrier is broken, all I could think of was when will I be able to go back? When people describe their first experience as magical, they are not kidding. I'm happy to say that I know what they mean.

It was a wonderful night. I met so many beautiful people! Susie's impressions will last forever. No matter what may happen in the future, if the bloom were ever to come off the rose with time, I would still think the very best of them. I still believe in the magic.

I never really saw so many girls all in one place, or felt as welcome and acceptable before. Christine, you are a stately and literally glowing hostess! Barbie is just too pretty. I thank the "Illusions" royalty for making my night, and for making our little troop from Regina feel right at home. And special thanks to the girls who escorted us around after the party, showing us some of the night spots. It broke my heart to leave them at the end of the evening. When it was time to return home, I felt strange like I had left a piece of myself behind. During our travel home, I almost did.

I was travelling with Britnney #450 when we very nearly lost our lives in a rather massive highway accident after hitting black ice near Medicine Hat. A lot goes

through a girl's mind after the second or third roll of the vehicle...usually glass and steel!

Oddly enough, I was thinking of a gag headline for the following day's newspaper, "People Just Dying to Get to Illusions" and the fact that I was about to be scraped off the Trans (pardon the pun) Canada Highway with my eyeliner all smudged and my favorite outfit strewn about some field. After the fourth roll, it was all just getting really old and quite annoying.

We lived and the RCMP that rescued us from our ditch lodgings and transported us to the Brooks hospital told us that it doesn't usually work out so well. We were very lucky to escape with minor injuries. My sprained shoulder and the mushed up lover back injuries were pretty minor considering the alternative.

Even after the weeks of recovery, the night sweats and the trauma stress, IT WAS WORTH IT! Thinking back on the afterglow and the wonderful people I'd met (I had the whole holidays to think it over) the decision was the same one that I'd made while being examined by the doctor in Brooks (who got the pleasure of seeing my taste in lingerie, by the way). I'd do it again in a minute! "But Nikki", you say. "Are you insane"? "You nearly got killed in an accident that wouldn't even have happened if you weren't fooling around in Alberta."

There's a verse in the bible where Jesus tells the disciples who were whining about how tough it was to be a disciple and the nasty things people would do and say to them, "But you have not yet resisted to the point of blood." What has crossdressing cost you lately? Is it a price you would be willing to pay? Chances are that nothing remotely as scary would happen to you should you venture out to one of the socials.

My last thoughts might very well have been my wonderful night in Calgary. I would have gone out a happy girl. Though we lived in many different towns and cities, I grew up with many of you -- living separate lives but tied in spirit through the common bond of experience. I felt that I had known some of you for so long, but have waited thirty six years to finally meet you.

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GIRLS UP NORTH SOCIAL UPDATE

WHAT can a "girl" say? It's been a wild & crazy two months up here in Edmonton again. This girl has hardly had any time to rest since I submitted my last report of our shenanigans to you fine ladies.

New Year's Eve was once again a blast with a big bunch of the "girls" partying the night away at Buddy's Pub. It turned out to be a wild and crazy night with everyone having a great time and getting confetti in their hair. The Illusions girls even cleaned up at the pool table (and I'm not talking confetti here). We also were extremely thoughtful as guests, making sure that all the lights were turned off when we left the bar!

At our January social we had the current Empress of the Court in Edmonton, **Natasha**, as our guest. We had a good turnout with almost 20 people in attendance. Natasha had volunteered to do a drag makeover on **Trish**, one of our girls. During the course of the evening, Natasha gave out a few pointers that many of us had not been aware of. We also got to learn a little bit more about the current Empress of the Court.

Michelle, along with **Linda Manners**, hosted a weekend party at her acreage west of the city the week before Winterfest 97. Many girls showed up for at least one night, but **Lady Blue**, **Jeff**, **Simba** and your humble reporter, were there for the entire weekend. The meals were great, the hot tub was awesome and inviting, and the company was fantastic. There were plenty of new wigs to try on. It was a weekend where girls could be our real selves for the entire weekend. Things were somewhat subdued in our warm city until the weekend of Winterfest 97. We had a great turnout with just under 40 people showing up, including groups from Calgary and farther south. **Ginger** was even in from B.C.

Strange and unexpected events included travelling to a nearby Subway for lunch, after finishing the decorating Saturday. As we were about to leave the restaurant, who else should walk in but our current Empress **Michelle**! She talked me into going outside and stepping into the car instead of her as her travel companions expected. I loved the reaction I got out of **Brenda & Monica** as I stepped in the car.

When I was finally ready to return to the Renaissance hotel as **Rachel**, I found that the party was already underway. **Sonya**, **Gina**, **Dana**, **Michele** and **Brenda** were in our hospitality/makeup room and in the midst of getting ready for the evening. The banquet room was elegant. Dinner was divine. Our main course was Chicken a l'Antoine and it was mouthwatering.

This feast was followed by the fashion shows. We began with the girls (**Linda Manners**, **Michelle**, **Leslie**, **Rachel** and "**Monique**") modeling streetware from Ricki's & Cleo's. We started off with casual outfits and worked our way towards evening attire. Some of the outfits modeled were truly gorgeous. In fact, our Empress couldn't resist one outfit and had to go down and buy it the very next day.

We then shifted to lingerie. Some of these outfits were truly to drool over. **Michelle**, **TJ** and yours truly got the honour to model these items along with some female models from Robin's Intimate Apparel. People's eyebrows certainly went up when they saw some of the outfits. Some models even played the part to the hilt, twirling and flirting to their hearts content as they walked past the tables.

Empress **Michelle** finished the evening by doing her now famous fire eating routine. This night she raised over \$58.00 for the Children's Wish Foundation.

1st Princess V.I. Rachel C.

EVENTS CALENDAR CANADA & INT'L

CALGARY

Saturday, March 15
St. Patrick's Day Social

The theme is "Wearin' a bit O the green" . . . hey this is your chance to crossdress as one of the "WEE FOLK" Jigs & Reels all night courtesy of Princess **Christine**. So you can read all about it in the "Herald" the next day or you can be there. Now dear friends, what will it be?

Friday, March 28
Regular Illusions Club Social
no theme, our regular selves. If you are new to the scene this would be a good evening to come out and receive some attention!

Saturday, April 12
Regular Illusions Club Social
Specialists from the Laser Rejuvenation Clinic will stage a slide presentation on the latest high tech hair removal technique.

EDMONTON
Thursday, March 13
Breast Forms
Someone from "Especially for You" Boutique will come in to talk to us about breast forms and how to pick one that is best for you, etc.

Thursday, April 10
Wig Care
We will have someone in to show and talk to us about the proper care and maintenance of our wigs.

Thursday, May 8
Fashion Show
A Spring/Summer fashion show for all those girls who can't get enough. This time, Mariposa will provide the clothing.

COMMUNITY BITS AND PIECES

SHOE RAFFLE
Sponsored by Gina, Duchess Exterior
GETTO BLASTER RAFFLE
Sponsored by Karen, Duchess Interior

We will need your help in both buying and selling tickets, so please offer your help to the spon-

sors. The proceeds from both of these raffles will go to the Social committee to help fund future events at the Club Socials!

ARGRA
Ongoing dances throughout the year. We are welcome to come any time. **Michelle**, **Brenda**, **Monica**, **Stephanie**, **Susan** and **Teri** went to the last one after one of the Club Socials and had a fun time.

NATIONAL
LETHBRIDGE
Saturday, March 22
GALA/LA Dance
Croation Hall. Call 329-4666
All are welcome.

VICTORIA
Pride Week July 1-6 1997
Pride Parade & Festival July 6, 1997

INTERNATIONAL

March 11-16
Texas "T" Party
P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163
210-980-7788
txtparty@aol.com

March 22 (6:30 pm)
11th Annual Night of a Thousand Crowns, Grand Ballroom, NY Hilton & Towers, 1335 Sixth Avenue, New York, NY, Lynn Walker, PO Box 090248 Brooklyn, NY 11209-0005
NatashaNZ@aol.com

April 3-5
Sexual Desire: What Do We Know? What Do We Need To Know? The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Western Regional Conference, Hyatt Newporter, Newport Beach, CA 1-800-233-1234 (Hyatt) Mary Klein, PhD., 881 Thornwood Palo Alto, CA 94303, (415) 856-6533, MKlein@SexEd.org

April 4-5
Full Circle of Woman, Exxex, MA, Centre for Gender Sanity, PO Box 45127, Westchester, CA 90045, (310) 670-2222, merkin77@aol.com
April 10-12
Perspectives on Progress, The 3rd Annual Symposium on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender

Issues, Holly J. Nichol, Chair, Women's Studies Program, URI, Roosevelt Hall, Kingston, RI 02881 (401) 874-5150
peguros@uriacc.uri.edu

April 15-20
California Unity 11th Annual IFGE Conference
California Dreamin' 97
Long Beach CA, IFGE, P.O. Box 229, Waltham MA 02254-0229
617-899-2212 ifge@world.std.com

April 18-20
1997 Eastern Region Twentieth Annual Conference Challenges to Sexual Freedom, Philadelphia, PA, James C. Achtzehn, PhD., Callaudet University, Dept. of Education, Washington, DC 20002-3695, (202) 651-5530
jehachtzehn@gallua.gallaudet.edu

May 4
1st Annual gender PAC Political Conference, Washington, DC
riki@pipeline.com

May 5-6
2nd National Gender Lobby Days Washington, DC, Ricki Wilchins, 274 W. 11 Street, New York, NY (212) 645-1753 riki@pipeline.com

May 15-16
Paradise in the Poconos
PO Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406-1263 (610) 640-9449

May 21-25
Esprit '95
Port Angeles, WA
PO Box 873, Kirkland, WA 98083-0873

June 4-8
Be All You Can Be
Chicago, IL, Naomi Owen PO Box 10240, Chicago, IL 60610-0240

June 19-22
2nd International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex, and Gender Issues, Congress Registration, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Ste. 719, Wayne, PA 19087, (610) 640-9449
(610) 648-0257 Fax, congrs2@cdspub.com

July 16-20
5th Annual Spouses Partners International Conference for

Education (SPICE)
Peggy Rudd, PO Box 5304, Katy, TX 77491-5304, (915) 343-1953
(Mary Jane) melpeg@phoenix.com or www.pmpub.com

August 3-10
Dignity Cruise, Location TBA
PO Box 5304, Katy TX 77491-5304, (800) 247-7021

August 9-11
3rd Annual FTM International Conference, Boston MA, 5337 College Ave, #142, Oakland, CA 94618, (617) 683-1095

September 4-7
Rites of passage 7, Guerneville, CA c/o Wendy Kaiser, 246 Lebanon Road, North Berwick, ME 03906, (207) 676-5870, WKaiser@aol.com

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PO Box 8016, Station Central, Victoria, BC V8W 3R7
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Xpressions
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Toronto, ON M5W 1B2
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Empress VI Michelle Hart

Of late, I have been in a quandary. So many people have been asking me questions, and that is not so bad, except that I perceive that the majority of the questioners think that I must have the answers.

When I ran for "Empress" VI, I thought I would be working for the continued solidarity and growth of our club. I thought I would be achieving it by maintaining the past efforts of those who preceded me. I felt that by sponsoring

new opportunities, we could continue the membership's growth of the previous year. What has happened is, the past quickly became "History" and the present, which I originally thought would be period of greater growth, has instead become a moment requiring maintenance! It has turned out to be a real "head scratcher" and a lot of extra work. Oh, oh, I can hear the violins right now! Let us try to put it all in perspective, from your point of view and mine; now and for the last time.

Many club members are questioning me about the changes that have taken place in our club. Despite what I have heard, I am not able to discern a consensus of opinion that will stand alone, so for now I will only speak from my perspective. This will be my last "Throne speech" in the new "Illusion" magazine that will talk to you directly on a personal basis as club members.

Why?, well because from now on with the new magazine format we have much wider readership. Right now at this moment there are people patiently reading what I am writing and have no idea what I am talking about! The events that have inspired me to write what I have so far are a concern to us locally, but irrelevant to a broader readership. Every writer, has the responsibility to remain topical or relevant to their times and to their audience. So that is why I am saying good bye. The next time I write, I will not be speaking to you directly about local or internal issues. Instead, I will be trying to

address issues that concern CD's across North America. That is where the circulation of the "Illusion" magazine is intended to go. In order for it's new format to succeed it will have to be topical to the intended audience.

There was a day, when in the evening sunshine, I basked on my Grandmothers lawn, amongst my various cousins and relatives. On the edge of her property the ocean's waves crashed relentlessly with unspoken power on the rocky shore. As they did so, we frivolously ate potato salad and contemplated their power. We felt warm and together.

I pine now for those wonderful days, yet I realize that no matter how much I miss them, those days are gone for ever. There are times when I try to recreate them, but the results are seldom the same. In effect, those moments are history. Some things if we are lucky, are just happy memories to be relived in the mind but never to be repeated in reality. So as I sit poised amongst my friends on the brink of the future, I will say to them. "I have fond memories of where we have been together, but now we must pass on."

I do see around me, in others, a certain satisfaction in what has been achieved at and through the growth of Illusions, yet, if that achievement is to have relevance beyond just a happy memory, then isn't there more work to do? Think of the moment when you finally had the temerity to step out for the first time as your "femme" self. Think again to that moment in the context of the person getting ready to do it now, then think of those that are effected by our deep emotion and still remain unborn. Maybe it's a "boy thing," but when these thoughts occur to me I know what I have to do!

In private moments and amongst ourselves locally, we will always be able to come together if we want to and relive our great moments from the past together, but up front and amongst others our lives have to appear to be proceeding into the future. I already know what I will do! I will try to remain topical. My work will be relevant to my time! I will do that and I will stay involved despite how I feel about what I perceive I am leaving behind. I will do that because I know deep inside, in the long run it is the right thing to do. I suppose my question is, as the window of the future is open in front of us now, who will be jumping through it with me? Only time will tell.

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

1st Princess VI Rachel

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I don't know if it's been me that has changed so much, or whether it is society. What I do know is that during these last few years I have expanded well beyond the closet I had once designed myself to. Our society does have a strong bias against men dressing as women, but it at least tolerates if not openly accepts women dressing as men. This is one aspect of society that I believe each of us wants changed.

The comments 2nd Princess Christine made in the last issue seemed particularly relevant to what I want to talk about. She hoped that society would become

more accepting of crossdressers. Unfortunately, society rarely changes unless people try to change it. How can we get society to change is the question that we all have to ask ourselves.

If society is to accept and understand us better, it first must be aware of us. I know that the making of such popular films as "Priscilla" and "To Woo Fong" and having crossdressers on the talk show circuit has created some awareness in society. This awareness however can be best described as second hand. People may know of crossdressers, but they are still thought of as a few individuals that are a long way away and not necessarily their next door neighbour. Only by going out into regular society and letting society see us as regular people can we hope to hasten this change.

I believe there are many people out there who will tolerate, if not accept our lifestyle. In the last year, I have gone out into stores and malls many times and have rarely gotten more than a second glance from passers-by. In the stores, many clerks have been very friendly and helpful even though they knew I was a crossdresser. I also know that there are many other Illusions' members out there who have had similar positive experiences.

By letting society see us more often in non threatening situations such as a mall or store, we will be able to start to change society's perception of crossdressers. I

know that this perception will not change overnight, but it will change.

On a similar vein, almost everyone I have talked to outside of our community has at least some misconceptions of crossdressers. By being open and honest with people, they will start to see us for who we really are and not as a potential threat to them or society in general. In fact, many times when I have told people about my being a crossdresser, they feel obligated to tell me something private about themselves.

I have gotten a strong impression from many people that they are prepared to accept transgendered people as part of regular society. There is however, still a lack of enough printed material for people to read and learn. It is therefore incumbent upon ourselves to educate people when we can, especially when they want to be educated.

It is only by being out in society and educating them when we can that we can start to change society so that it will start to accept us for who and what we really are.

2nd Princess

Christine

return

with her

thoughts

next issue!

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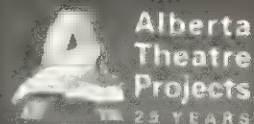
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your letters...continued from page 6

Congratulations & Best Wishes for a great convalescence after having your SRS. I was speaking with Ursula (New Brunswick) as I was there over Christmas and she told me about your surgery. I wish only the best for you and yours! It's been awhile since we spoke on the phone. You were a wealth of information for me, as I feel I am a pre-op TS. I was looking for advice that you were able to pass on. Thanks for being a friend and for all your support. Hopefully, I'll soon be able to become a member of your fine organization.

Lara (Newfoundland)

I feel I must make a few comments on the recent changes to the magazine. What many girls may not take

into consideration is that nobody goes into business to lose money. As sharp business women, you no doubt thought long and hard about the new direction. I realize the recent changes are coming from a business mind with the expectation of increased sales. The changes are healthy, even necessary. From an artistic point, I really like the new cover-slick and glossy with a rougher edge. I would still like to see some of our more prominent and bodacious babes grace it. The layout makes a nice change with fewer pages on higher quality paper. The whole magazine is more pleasant to the eyes and easier to read. On a visual level, I think the effect is a positive one. The content is what I struggle with. One, if not the main reason I joined Illusions was that I was so impressed with

the warmth and sisterliness of the magazine. It seemed to attract the the very best and most wonderful gals. Opening the magazine and seeing (fabricated?) letters about masturbating in wife's panties seemed out of place. I feel it cheapens and diminishes us as a whole. I say this, never losing sight of the fact, that if it weren't for Barbie and Christine there might not even be a group. There is always gratitude in this girl's heart. Love you both.

Nikki #374

I like the new look of Illusion Magazine Jan/Feb 97. I am reading Illusion right now and I think the ad, "Take a Look at Our Custom Fetish, etc." is very nice! Thank-you for everything you do for me as an out of town reader (Quebec). *Mark*

TRANVESTISM...continued from pg. 10

There can be many reasons why your son will dress in girls' clothes. Even at the earliest stages of childhood we begin to understand that mother is different from father. At birth, the child is able to sense the smell of the mother and the milk in the breast, this sense of smell being sharpened by hunger. As the mother is the provider of food, the child feels safe and secure with her; a bond which remains between the mother and child for life. The father may not appease the feelings of hunger, but the baby will also recognize the smell of the father, and feel secure while held and comforted by him.

These two senses remain keen in the child for a very long time, even after some three to five years. It may be that this is one possible cause of transvestism in a young child. Perhaps a child finds itself alone, is frightened, and seeks comfort and solace in the bedroom, where he knows the mother could be. Here he finds the smell and surroundings where he has obtained comfort; he may drape your clothes around himself to allay his fears and

insecurity; their soft touch and smell bring him the feeling of love and safety which he needs. Later, he begins to notice the differences between the styles of the clothes of his parents, and if he is frightened he may repeat his actions, this time partially aware that the clothes do have a meaning beyond that of mere covering; that they are the difference between the two images that are a part of his everyday life. Male. Female. If we telescope time and keep these thoughts in mind we can see that the child may still be drawn to fondling or wearing his mother's, or his sister's clothes, and we could have one reason for the early stages of transvestism.

Transvestism is merely the desire to dress out of the conventional role image as seen by society; the image that defines the differences between the sexes. Society has set these conventional images which define the sexes, it is a pattern with which we grow up. Too often, the child does not understand, and in his confusion believes that the difference between the sexes is a matter of clothing, rather than genitals.

There can be many other reasons why your son will dress in your clothes. Even in his teens he may suffer feelings of insecurity and fear, and resort to handling or wearing your clothes for reassurance. He may do so to gain your attention. Maybe, as he grows a little older he may become jealous when he realizes that your affection is not for him alone, but also for his father. Sometimes his sister may seem to be his father's favourite, which again may create jealousy. He might feel that if he wore girls' clothes he might then receive the attention which he feels he is lacking; although the opposite reaction is normally the result.

It is important for you to understand that in no way are you to blame as a parent. No blame can be attributed, the reasons for transvestism are almost as many as there are transvestites. If anyone is 'responsible', it is the transvestite himself.

Making it work for YOU

Illusions Social Club exists due to the hard work of the volunteers who clean, buy supplies and contribute to this magazine. Please offer your help and suggestions to Christine and Barbie. Your help is appreciated by us all

Registry

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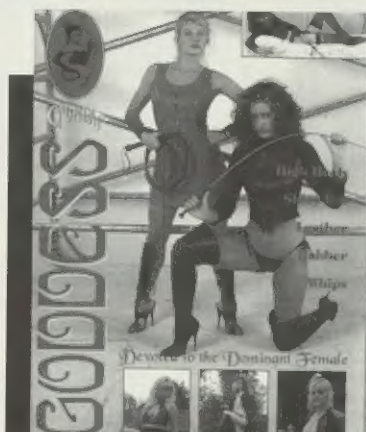
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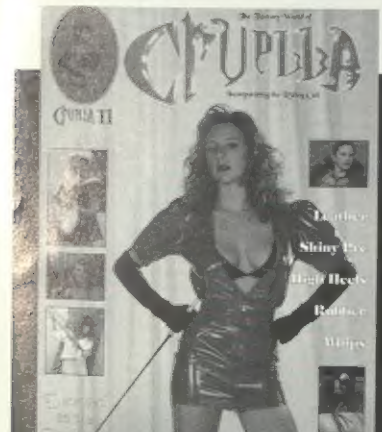
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